

## Citizen's Conference on World Bank: International Day of Demonstrations Called

by Randall Hayes

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) are planning a conference September 28-30, 1986, in Washington, DC to protest multilateral development-bank funding policies. The event will focus on projects in tropical rainforests and the funding of dams. The Citizen's Conference preceeds the World Bank's annual meeting (September 30 through October 3, 1986) which will also be held in Washington DC.

At noon on the 30th NGO participants will march to the World Bank headquarters and demonstrate their displeasure with destructive funding policies. The demonstrators hope to be joined by groups around the world demonstrating at private banks in their localities.

The conference is an outgrowth of the previous Dam Fighters conferences and the November 1985 Grassroots Rainforest Conference in San Francisco.

The Citizen's Conference program will feature speakers, workshops, panel discussions, and strategy-planning sessions. Conference organizers plan to bring NGO representatives and tribal peoples from highly threatened areas around the world to lead workshops and to join in the demonstration. Travel funds are limited, but indigenous people and participants from Third World countries are strongly encouraged to attend. The week before and after the conference will be an opportunity to meet with the press, Congress, development officials, and other activists. Conference organizers will assist visitors with setting up appointments.

As part of an effort to dramatize the impacts of multilateral development bank loan

programs, an endangered rainforest species parade is planned. The parade will march around the World Bank and through nearby parts of Washington DC.

The Rainforest Action Network is calling for an international day of demonstrations at local banks on Sept. 30, 1986. The World Bank and three other large development-banks lend over \$22 billion per year in rainforest countries. These banks leverage over \$66 billion per year from private banks. In the U.S. 61 banks have reported \$90 billion in outstanding loans and deposits in Latin America. California banks--Bank of America Corp., Security Pacific, Wells Fargo, and First Interstate Bancorp--have loaned \$10.6 billion to Latin America.

Some economists concerned with the growing Third World debts look to the growth rate of exports from those countries. Exports growing faster than the debt is a good sign. According to Mike Roselle, We need to understand that many of the exports are at the expense of the rainforest, which is a nonrenewable resource. Demonstrations at local banks are meant to explain this volatile situation and help build the grassroots base to change banking policies. I think we will see over one hundred different demonstrations in the US, Japan, and Europe, let alone in the rest of the world. The Citizen's Conference and World Bank demonstration are sponsored by the Environmental Policy Institute, the International Dams Newsletter, the Rainforest Information Centre, the Rainforest Action Network, and several other groups. For more information on either event contact the Environmental Policy Institute, 218 D Street SE, Washington DC 20003; (202) 544-2600, or the Rainforest Action Network in San Francisco, (415) 788-3666.

## Indonesia Resettlement Program: Disaster for the Rainforest

by Madeleine Dunphy

Bali and Java are the most fertile and populated of the thirteen-thousand-island Indonesian archipelago. In parts of rural Java there are as many as five thousand people living on one square mile. Forty percent of the people living in the country side have no land at all and another thirty-five percent do not have enough land to grow the crops they need to feed their families. One reason for this crowding is unfair land distribution. One third of the land in Java is in the hands of one percent of the landowners.

The outer islands - notably Sumatra, Kalimantan (the Indonesian section of Borneo), Sulawesi, and Irian Jaya (the western half of the island of New Guinea) have relatively infertile soils which are unsuitable for intensive agriculture or dense populations. Until recently these islands have only been inhabited by small isolated groups of people who hunt, fish, gather, and practise shifting cultivation in the forest. But by the beginning of the twentieth century, as the inner islands became increasingly crowded, the government decided that the best way to solve this over-population problem was to move people to the outer islands.

The Indonesian Transmigration Program, as it is known, has been implemented on and off since the 1950s. Since 1979 between 1.5 to 2 million people have been moved to the outer islands. The government plans to move half a million people in the next five years. Two thirds of government-sponsored transmigrants are landless peasants, the poorest in the area; another ten percent are homeless city dwellers. Needless to say, many of these people have little farming skills. A 1976 study showed that up to 45 percent of transmigrants have never grown rice, the staple crop of Indonesia. Transmigration has already had a devastating impact on Indonesia's rainforests. Parts of Sumatra and Sulawesi, formerly heavily forested and uninhabited, are now as populated and urbanized as parts of Java. Millions of hectares of primary forest have already been deforested by this program, and over 3.3 million hectares of tropical rainforest are designated for transmigration in the next five years.

In addition to the severe environmental damages being caused, the indigenous people living on the outer islands have been greatly affected by the invasion of the transmigrants. Many of the tribal peoples have been forced to abandon their traditional lands and ways of life, leaving them with no

alternative but to try and integrate into Transmigration settlements where they are despised and ostracized for their 'primitive' customs. They are expected to abandon their sophisticated and sustainable agricultural techniques for the settlers methods of shifting cultivation which lays the land to waste in a matter of a couple of years. Consequently, the Indonesia Transmigration Program has caused an escalation in inter-ethnic tensions, resulting in many bloody disputes between tribal people and the military.

Indonesia's original justification for this program was to reduce population pressures. They admit that it hasn't worked. The real reason appears to be one of national security - a desire to domesticate the ethnic groups who seek independence.

To date, the World Bank has provided nearly 600 million dollars for the Indonesia Transmigration Program. Approximately 800 million dollars has been designated for this program since June 1985, with a further 750 million dollars allocated for future disbursement. This certainly goes against the legislation recently passed in congress requiring the World Bank to lend money to "environmentally beneficial projects" and for the "protection of indigenous peoples".

In view of the evergrowing evidence that the Indonesian Transmigration Program is an environmentally and socially disastrous project, please write to Mr. Barber Conable, the President of The World Bank, to express your concern. Strongly urge him to review the bank's present policy of supporting the project. Ask him to take immediate steps to halt funding the program until there are guarantees that it will be carried out in a way which does not destroy the environment or abuse the indigenous peoples who live there.

Mr. Barber Conable, President  
The World Bank  
1818 H Street NW  
Washington DC 20433  
U.S.A.

Hon. Mr. Suharto, President  
Parliament House  
Jakarta  
Indonesia



### RAINFOREST FIELD STUDIES IN BELIZE AND GUATEMALA

The Sierra Institute, US Santa Cruz Extension is offering a very special field program in rainforest ecology next winter in Belize and Guatemala. For two months, 12 students will have the opportunity to experience wild rainforests, study unexplored Mayan ruins, backpack to ceremonial cave sites, raft an underground river, investigate and work on a coastal archaeological dig.

Three courses for 15 units of undergraduate credit are offered: Rainforest Ecology, Mayan Archaeology; and a Practicum in jungle travel and living skills.

Bret Blosser, with 12 seasons of research and exploration in Belize will co-teach the program focusing on rainforest biology. Barbara McLeod will instruct the Mayan Archaeology course. She is currently finishing a Ph.D. in Mayan Linguistics and cave painting.

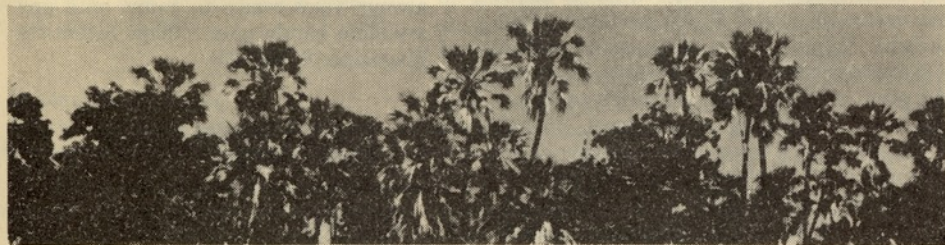
Rainforest Field Studies offers direct experience in Central American backcountry, both biological and cultural, past and present. Survival of the rainforest and survival of the integrity of contemporary Mayan society will be the central focuses of the program.

For information and an application contact The Sierra Institute Dept. RH Carriage House, UC Extension, Santa Cruz, CA. 95064 or call (408) 429-2761.

### CALL FOR INFORMATION

Friends of the Earth UK  
Tropical Rainforest Campaign

FoE is looking at the problem of tropical rainforest loss resulting from inappropriate aid projects. We press for more environmentally sound development. We would like to hear of any projects funded by aid agencies such as the Commonwealth Development Corporation (U.K.), O.D.A. (U.K.), E.E.C., World Bank, etc., which causes destruction or degradation of tropical rainforests either directly or indirectly. Please support tropical rainforests and write to: Sue Milner or Charles Secrett, FoE, 377 City Road, LONDON, EC1V 1NA. U.K. Donations welcome.



## International Tropical Timber Organization: Slowed Down

by Charles Secrett

The meeting to select an office location for the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) has been put off until sometime in September 1986. A political deadlock between producer and consumer nations is preventing this decision. This also

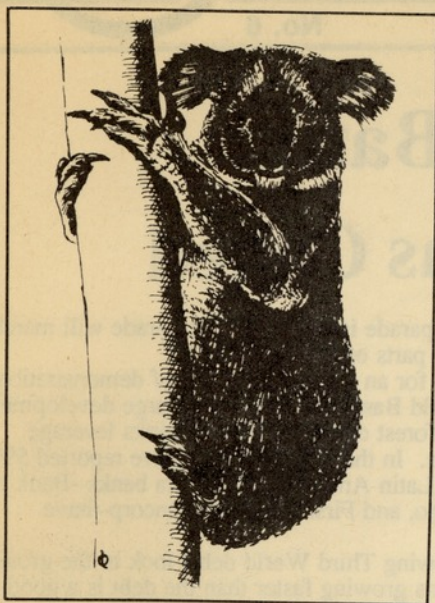
prevents the choosing of an executive officer who will need to be from outside the region where the office is ultimately placed.

The ITTO forum is an important international influence on timber policy. Efforts to monitor the agency are underway in several parts of the world, including the UK and Europe. However, pressure is needed from groups in America.



# News and Noteworthy

## National Boycott Newsletter



### FORGET CANCER, BACK CONSERVATION

Two hundred research scientists, planners, and theoreticians decided to launch a new society devoted to the field of conservation biology. They want to raise the priority given to conservation biology in national research programmes, particularly in the United States.

Jared Diamond, Professor of Surgery at the University of California in Los Angeles and a leading conservation biologist, made the case for conservation biology. "It will not matter, except to certain individuals, if we do not find a cure for cancer within the next 75 years, but it will affect all of us if we do not do something specific about conservation biology within the next 15 years."

Diamond wants the "trappings" of a respectable discipline. These include a specific grant panel at the National Science Foundation. "That may mean cutting, say, space research," says Diamond, "but the stars will still be there in 15 years' time while the rainforests may not."

There are only half a dozen experts in the identification of tropical plants in the US. The society wants more training, particularly of graduates, and a better exchange of information between research scientists and the managers who implement conservation policies. (Jeremy Cherfas, Ann Arbor, Michigan)

The National Boycott Newsletter, 6506 28th Ave. NE, Seattle, Washington 98115, USA, published a special rainforest report in its Volume 1, Number 4. This spring 86 issue is great reading on the rainforest issue. We quote:

"Lever Brothers, through its subsidiary, Lever Pacific Timbers, is one of the most active rainforest loggers in the Pacific area. In the Solomon Islands, it has over 50% of the timber quota and exports whole logs so as to cause as little local employment as possible. Its logging methods are generally destructive and backward, having little or no regard for water courses. Unilever has an annual turnover 300 times as large as the Solomon Islands and has used this financial power to secure timber deals without royalty payments and with no compulsion to replant.

"Product names include: RINSO, SURF, OMO, LUX, SUNLIGHT, HANDY ANDY, LIFEBUOY, VELVET, SOLVOL, SUNSILK, PERSIL, COMFORT, REXONA, DENIM, STREETS, LIPTONS, ROSELLA, CONTINENTAL, MIRACLE, FLORA, STORK, BIRDSEYE, AIM, ALL, BACHELOR, BREEZE, BLUE BAND, CARESS, CLOSE-UP, DIMENSION, DOVE, DX, ERA, FINAL TOUCH, IMPERIAL, IMPULSE, PEARS, PEPSODENT, PRAISE, SIGNAL, SNUGGLE, SPRY, SWAN, TWICE AS NICE, TWINNINGS, UNOX, VIM, WISK, JOHN WEST, PROTO, DEB, SURPRISE, CUP-A-SOUP, NURSES, BECEL, ASTRA, FAIRY, COVO, SHEF, GILT, COPHA, KAYKEE, SHORTEK, PASTREX III, LITE, SO LITE, BISTEX, GEGETOL, TRIO, FLEX, VESTA, ALLY, SEAKIST, ROBERTTIMMS, LAN-CHOO, BILLY TEA, MRS BUTTERWORTH SYRUP, ATKINSON, SHIELD, PHASE III."

### Ha Ha Hae Indians

The Patexo Ha Ha Hae Indians in south Bahaa have been engaged in a protracted struggle (see Urgent Action Bulletin BRZ-5 March 1983) to recover their traditional lands, now occupied by ranchers, from which they were evicted in 1936. Frustrated at the lack of progress in the Supreme Federal Court, the Indians took matters into their own

hands between the 18th and the 22nd of November, 1985, by peacefully occupying four ranches with a total area of 1730 hectares.

The response from the ranchers and their political allies was swift and brutal. On the pretext that the ranches had been invaded by Indians armed with machine-guns, the governor of Bahai ordered a detachment of military police to Patexo. In the early hours of 22 November, 130 military police under the command of a "Captain Guimaraes" used rifles, machine guns, and tear gas to forcibly evict the Indians.

Twenty-nine Indians suffered injuries. Of these, seven were detained in the hospital. Many of the Indians, women and children among them, were tortured, and one reliable report indicated that four pregnant women now risk miscarriages. The military police were accompanied by armed ranch employees disguised in military uniforms. The Indians were robbed of personal possessions, money, food, and clothing. They were rounded up and threatened with execution.

as reported in *Survival International*

### GENETIC EROSION: THE OTHER WAR

It is important that conservationists today recognize that they have two wars on their hands. There is little point in registering gains in the first war, to conserve wild genetic resources, if they permit themselves to be out-manoeuvred and defeated in the other war, to ensure conservation and free exchange of genetic resources already tamed. Neither of these wars is simply a way against ignorance. As I pointed out recently, if the tropical forests, with their untold genetic wealth, are to be saved, it is necessary to defeat the social forces intent on maintaining inequalities in access to land and water. Otherwise, vast armies of rural landless have no survival option save to invade and destroy the forest. The conservationists' enemies in this first war are therefore not the rural poor, but oppressive and corrupt regimes (e.g., Indonesia) in tropical forested countries, and also those business interests and governments which prop such regimes up from inside (e.g., Japan).

In the second war, the lineup is even clearer. The monopolistic strongholds which the seed/plant-breeding/chemical giants are presently building are contrary to the interests of farmers and consumers alike, now and in the future, in both First and Third World countries. Yet the transnationals' propaganda and wealth still persuade many politicians and statesmen that the interests of the monopoly groups coincide with the public interest. In developed countries their local fertilizer/pesticide advisors meet and help the farmer more often than do the government's agricultural extension agents. This is why so many First World farmers see agrichemical companies as on their side and are still blind to how genetic monopolies threaten them and their futures.

(Jack C. Westoby, 27 Dec 84)

### DEBTS STRANGLE OUR ENVIRONMENT

Our forest lands are being exploited disastrously. From 1980-84 forest denudation averaged 40,124 hectares annually. Logging is one of the major causes of forest denudation. Despite strict logging laws and stiff penalties to those caught violating these laws, illegal logging continues to proliferate with impunity. In 1983, 1,023 million cubic meters of logs were exported to Japan coming from Mindanao alone, as against the 600,000 cubic meters of logs allowed by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). This means that 423,000 cubic meters of logs are smuggled out of the country.

('Kapaligiran,' Philippines, Third Quarter 1985)

### SMOKING DESTROYS HEALTH AND FORESTS

Tobacco production, adopted throughout the Third World as a cash crop, is raising rates, causing deforestation, and occupying land that could grow much needed food crops for home

consumption.

Developing countries using tobacco to bring in foreign earnings, and with them the products of the industrialized world, are losing money and damaging their health, according to the WHO. Tobacco economies, says Dr. Roberto Masironi of the WHO's smoking and health programmes, are "sham economies."

Tobacco, now grown by about 120 Third World countries, has the advantage of a relatively stable international market. Much help with training and finance is available, either from state-run organizations or the tobacco multinationals.

(The Times, UK, Apr. 1, 1985)

### COSTA RICA NOW PROTECTS ONE-QUARTER OF ITS LAND

Costa Rica established two newly protected areas on 12 June 1985. Golfito National Wildlife Refuge (1309 ha, 3235 acres) is a remnant of once-extensive coastal lowland tropical moist forests on the southern Pacific coast. Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge (92,000 ha, 227,000 acres) consists of swamp forests and flooded palm thickets in the northeast of the country. It includes some of the wettest lowland rainforest in Central America, and its wildlife includes jaguar, caiman, tapir, manatee, and macaws. Costa Rica now has 25 percent of its land area protected.

(ORYX, Vol XX)



### MULTINATIONALS THREATEN WORLD'S RAINFORESTS

The activities of Unilever's subsidiaries and associate companies "have sometimes been vigorously denounced for their damaging social and environmental effects." Dr. Francois Nectoux, a researcher with Earth Resources Research, identifies Ghana and Belize as two countries where British timber interests could grow. There is a proposal to log 48,000 hectares of rainforest in NW Belize, for instance (New Scientists, 24 Nov 83, p. 569). Nectoux says "where there are virgin forest resources, coupled with a weak and compliant government with no strict enforcement of environmental policies and no chances of nationalization, British interests are always very ready to jump onto any available bandwagon." (New Scientists Magazine, 9 May 85)

### HOPE FOR VALUABLE RAINFOREST

The MacArthur Foundation has provided a million-dollar grant towards the purchase of Costa Rica's La Selva Zona Protectora and three conservation groups, WWF-US, the US Nature Conservancy, and the Organization of Tropical Studies, must match this by the end of the year. The Zona Protectora, a narrow 7700 ha (19,000 acre) band of rainforest, connects La Selva Research Station of the Organization of Tropical Studies and Braulio Carrillo National Park. Costa Rica's National Park Service designated this corridor as a protected zone in 1982, freezing land development and prohibiting logging, burning, and hunting, but did not have the money to buy out the owners. (ORYZ, Vol XIX)

## WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT

**Editors Note:**

World Rainforest Report #6 was compiled by the Rainforest Information Centre (Australia), Friends of the Earth UK, and the Rainforest Action Network (USA). The publication reports on related information and actions throughout the world. Our network consists of several hundred groups committed to the rights of indigenous peoples and protection of the rainforests. The full page advertisement that appeared in the *New York Times* on Burger King and deforestation in Central America will be featured in a special eight page issue to come out prior to the Citizen's Conference on the World Bank in September.—Randall Hayes

**Subscriptions** are \$15.00 US for one year, free where possible to NGO's who can't afford this. Please write to the contact in your region of the world.

Friends of the Earth UK, 377 City Road, London EC1 V1 NA England  
 Rainforest Action Network, 466 Green Street #300, San Francisco, CA 94133 USA  
 Rainforest Information Centre, PO Box 368, Lismore 2480 Australia

**Staff:** Randall Hayes, Ian Peter, Mike Roselle, John Seed, Charles Secrett. Thanks to Sean Striker, Madeleine Dunphy, Karen Jackson, John Davis, EF!, Jim Keller, and Juliette Majot.



## BALBINA—DISASTER DAM

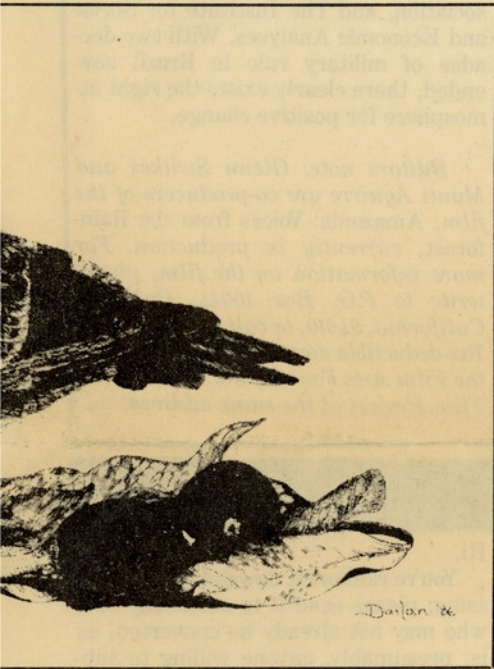
MANAUS, Brazil- At a time when naturalists and energy experts often find themselves at odds over proposed power plants, the 800 million dollar Balbina project is unusual; it is taking flak from both sides.

The dam is under construction on the Uatama River, an Amazon tributary 100 miles north of Manaus. It will inundate 850 square miles of rainforest, creating one of the largest hydroelectric reservoirs on Earth. But it will produce a relatively paltry 250 megawatts of power.

Although little is known of Balbina outside of Brazil, there is mounting criticism that it is being built in the wrong place, costs too much, will ruin too much forest land, and won't produce enough electricity. But more worrisome to some people is the prospect that dams like Balbina will become man-made disasters because their relatively shallow slow-moving water would breed disease-bearing insects.

The need for irrigation and electric power impels more and more developing countries to create a heavy price in disease, loss of prime farmland, and displacement.

"Balbina is a disaster and everyone knows it," says Paulo Nogueira-Neto, special secretary for the environment in the Brazilian government. "It's one of the greatest errors committed in the Amazon."



The dam is being supported by the World Bank through a \$28 million loan that will finance substations for Balbina and other hydroelectric stations in Brazil.

Balbina is not the only controversial reservoir that owes its existence, at least in part, to financing from the World Bank or other multilateral lending institutions, and reservoirs are not the only projects for which the institutions are criticized.

The hunters who collect the eyes of the sacred Amazon dolphin, the dispossessed urban population, the greed of the gold and iron miners, the blatant ignorance of the World Bank, and the seemingly uncaring attitude of the Brazilian government have all conspired to declare war on Amazonia. Her people, trees, and all the living creatures are under threat.

### Settlement Programs or Extermination Camps?

In World Rainforest Report 4 we reported on the success in halting the flow of World Bank dollars in the Polonoroeste Project due to the efforts of environmentalists from several countries. The legacy of this project is reported on by the Acao Democratica Feminina Gaucha of Brazil in a paper entitled, "Settlement Projects or Extermination Camps?"

The Polonoroeste Project in the state of Rondonia left 30,000 settler families in absolute poverty and displaced 15,000 families of rubber tappers who are now living clandestinely in Bolivia. Although the World Bank experts knew that the Brazilian Government had not fulfilled its part of the contract (to look after the Indians and settlers) the dol-

lars to continue the "opening up of the jungle" kept coming in, with one brief interruption due to the protest of North American and Brazilian NGSS supported by North American Congressmen.

But it was too late to save either the forest or the settlers or the Indians or the rubber tappers. The report continues:

"The Polonoroeste experiment will now be repeated in the state of Acre, once again with the 'help' of development dollars. The road of 550 km to connect the cities of Porto Velho and Rio Branco is already being opened. The deadline to receive the US \$147 million loan from the BIRD is September 1986. To tranquilize public opinion, \$10 million is destined to studies of the area which have to be ready by September. This can't be a serious proposal: the complexity and diversity of Amazonian ecosystems makes it impossible to establish preservation areas and Indian reservations as well as areas for sustainable agriculture in a period of 10 months." The report says of the rainforest:

"Tropical rainforests are absolutely critical to environmental stability of Planet Earth. They are part of the common heritage of human kind, the genebanks for the future, a protection against climatic imbalances.

"The Amazon river has been the largest contributor of unpolluted water to the ocean. In our interdependent spaceship Earth, it is our common responsibility to watch over the ecological patrimony.

"International funds should be established for serious scientific studies and effective protection of this forest and its inhabitants who have lived for centuries in the forest, with it and from it, without destroying it. We have much to learn from them.

### Action.

Please write to: John Spears — Senior Forestry Advisor, The World Bank 1818 H. Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20433 USA

Nabur Teles Rocha Jr. - Governnador do Acre - Palacio do Governo, 69.900-Rio/Branco/Acre-Brasil

Gus Speth - President - World Resources Institute — 1735 N.Y. Ave. N.W. Washington D.C., 20006, USA

President Jose Sarney - Palacio do Planalto, 70.159 Brailia Distrito Federal - Brasil.

Paul Staes - Europees Parlement - Belliard-Straat 97— 1131040 Brussels Belgium.

## INDIA: HOME OF THE WORLD'S WETTEST DESERT

CHERRAPUNJI, INDIA: Reputed to be the wettest place on Earth, Cherrapunji is not the lush green spot you might expect. It is a barren "wet desert," and one of the forerunners of environmental disaster in the Himalayas. Sandwiched between the Himalayas and the Burmese mountains, the area used to be forested. Today there is no vegetation to hold the soil, and no soil to support a forest.

Populations have soared, and pressure for agricultural land is acute. Shifting cultivation, known locally as "jhum," was traditionally practiced, and fallow periods ranged from 20-30 years. Now they have fallen to 3-5 years—insufficient for forest cover to regenerate. As a result, up to 170 tonnes of soil per hectare are being washed away by the monsoons each crop year. Ironically for a region with the highest rainfall in the world (1,150 cm/450 inches annual average), Cherrapunji has begun to face chronic shortages of drinking water. The lack of vegetation causes rainwater to run off the surface into the plains of Bangladesh, causing rivers there to swell and flood.

Deforestation in the Himalayas thus creates deserts and flood regions side by side, marooning villages in a landscape of despair.

Ujjayant Chakravorty, "Earthscan Bulletin," Nicobar Earthscan Story.

## THE JUNGLE—STILL HOME FOR MALAYSIA'S ABORIGINES

Once a month tinned sardines and school books fall from the sky over the remote village of Fort Telanok in the jungle-covered highlands of the Malayan peninsula.

The shouts of excited children who

rush to greet the twirling red parachutes are not understood by the Malay teacher standing by the school hut. His pupils are Semais, one of the three aboriginal peoples of Peninsular Malaysia.

They look different, speak a different language, and follow a different religion from the Islamic Malays who gave the country its name. They are also the poorest and technologically the most backward of Malaysia's 15 million people.

The 20th century has been slow in penetrating the rainforest where many aborigines still live. Government air-drops are the main source of essential supplies from the outside world to this ancient community, which also survives by hunting, gathering wild fruits, and planting dry hill rice.

Little is known of the history of the 70,000 aborigines who are divided into some 20 ethnic subgroups scattered along the mountain backbone of the peninsula which runs from Singapore north to Thailand. Their languages belong to a group which includes Khmer (Kampuchean) and the Mon language of Burma. Some of them have Negroid features and curly black hair. Some scholars believe they are related to the aboriginal tribes which once swept through the region to Australia, but no link has yet been proved.

(Robert Mahoney, Environmental News Digest, No. 4, 1985)

## CARAJAS

CARAJAS, Brazil — Immense mechanical shovels at the ambitious Carajas Iron Ore Mine—one of the gigantic Brazilian development schemes that are changing forever the face of the Amazon Jungle— have begun gouging the first high-grade deposits from a range of mineral rich mountains where geologists say production can go on for 300 years.

No one here doubts the extensive impact that Carajas will have on the development of a vast and as yet largely unsettled jungle. What is arguable, however, is whether or not the ore from the \$4.1 billion project is really needed on the world market already wallowing in a glut. World iron ore proceeds for high grade ore have fallen from about \$21 per ton in 1982, to the present level of \$17 per ton, even as production costs have accelerated. The Government-controlled mining company responsible for this immense project — the Companhia do Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD) — already is the world's largest producer and exporter of iron ore. With sales of 1.4 billion dollars a year, the company is Brazil's biggest foreign exchange earner. The company borrowed \$1.6 billion internationally to help meet the cost of the venture.... "CVRD officials categorically reject suggestions the Carajas is an economic development project rather than a profit making venture. Yet some independent mining analysts disagree. "Many companies did cost estimates on that project and all found them much higher than the numbers CVRD is now publishing," said an executive of a US mining concern in Brazil. "Of course, one must remember that it is a Government company — they can provide subsidies and hide costs pretty much at will and nobody will ever know." And, as the Vice President for sales of a foreign mining company operating in Brazil pointed out: "Many companies in the US and Canada have had to shut iron ore mines because there is just no way of selling the stuff. There's just too much of it around."

from the Baltimore Sun, January 1986

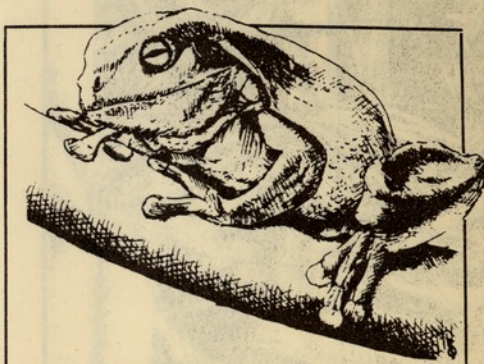
## Tukanoa and the Macu Indians

In the Rio Negro in the northwest corner of Brazil, considered prior to 1980 a backwater, groups of Tukanoan and Macu Indians have seen their lands invaded by gold-seekers. Gold panners by the thousand have come to 'get rich.' The greed has focused in the form of Amazon Mineracao da Amazonia Ltda. and Taboca Mineracao, both belonging to the giant Paranapanema. The January edition of Survival International reports that "these two companies along with a third company (Continental) have been granted concessions totalling over 200,000 hectares, most of which overlap areas presently being exploited by gold

panners."

This has led to a war-like situation between the gold panners and the private army of companies. "90% of company employees have served in the armed forces and the directors include active a retired army Colonels and military police Commandants" (SI, Jan. 86). Both sides insist they have the backing of the Indians, but as SI reports, further "Indian leaders of the region have made an International appeal for help."

These realities are recent for the Macu and Takanoan Indians, but for tribes elsewhere in the Amazon, the catastrophe has already occurred.



**FACT:** Destroying the rainforests means the loss of 5 million plants, insects, and animals: half of all the plant and animal species on Earth! We will also lose a genetic bank full of unknown medicinal plants and herbs. *PBS film: Rainforests of New Guinea*

## Quotes

"Whether they belong to more evolved species like humans or simpler ones such as animals, all beings primarily seek peace, comfort, and security. Life is as dear to a mute animal as it is to any human being; even the simplest insect strives for protection from the dangers that threaten its life."

—His Holiness the Dalai Lama

"We are not frightened by the spectre of imprisonment in Siberia. We are frightened by the vision of a sterile ocean and a barren land, an earth devoid of non-human life, and Earth without the songs of the whales and birds, the trumpet of the elephant, the howl of the wolf and the sign of the redwood in the wind.

"We are not scared of the Japanese exploding harpoons or the potshots of ignorant whalers armed with rifles. We are scared of doing nothing, of being apathetic, complacent, and guilty of ignoring the cries of mother Earth as she is raped, tortured, mutilated, and wasted."

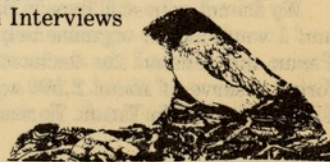
—Paul Watson, founder of the Sea Sheperd Society

"I shall speak of the land and the forest. This is our land and no one has the right to take it away from us. This land gives us our food and everything we need. The company can't have our land. The government can invite companies to their lands, not ours. I will keep the company away. If the company comes again, I will kill them. We don't want their money. Money has no future. Money disappears. Only man and land remain. Our ancestors didn't live on money. Our ancestors didn't descend from money. We don't want their money. We have all we need — the land, the trees, the fish. I will not allow them to take our land. The forest is our skin; take away a person's skin and he dies."

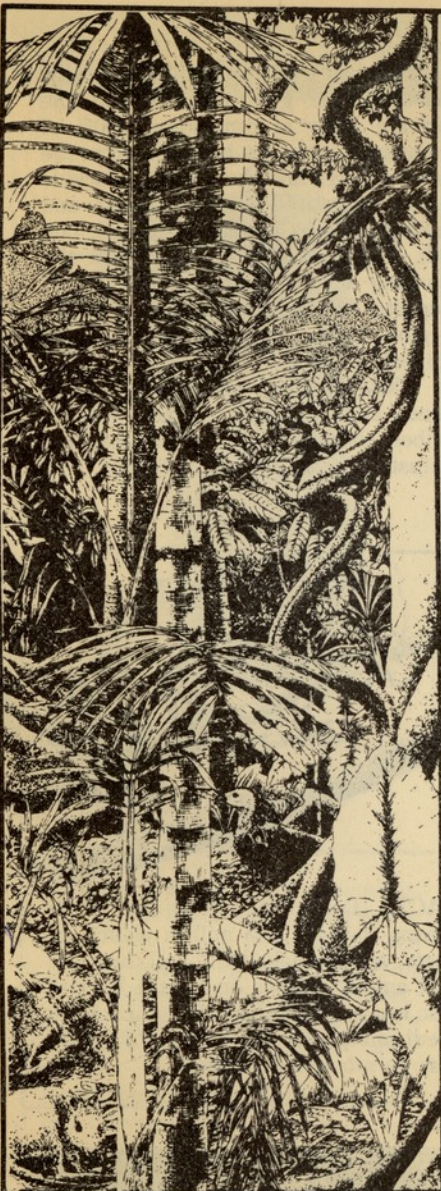
—Kipling Jinegari  
Binandere Tribe, Timouro  
NEW GUINEA

"I think that the war we're fighting right now is the most important war that's ever been fought. We're fighting a war of survival, and it's everybody's duty to become involved. In fact, people that don't enlist should be drafted. They will be anyway when the situation becomes desperate, they will be drafted into it by circumstance."

—Paul Watson  
Ecolibrium Interviews







by Glenn Switkes and Monti Aguirre

We've just returned from six months in the Brazilian Amazon, completing pre-production work for our film, *Amazonia: Voices from the Rainforest*. This was the richest experience of our lives, not only for the breathtaking environment in which we found ourselves, but also because of the strength and resolve of the people with

# Listening to the Voices from Amazonia

whom we came into contact. We were left with a strong conviction that it is the people of the Amazon who hold the key in the fight to protect the rainforest. There is cause for hope as workers organize at a national level, giving force to efforts to protect their traditional lands. Along with Brazil-nut gatherers, rubber tappers, or "seringueiros," earn a living from the richness of the forest without destroying it, and need the trees intact in order to extract the latex and nuts. These native people have been driven from their gathering areas by expansion of the cattle frontier and by government colonization projects. Many of these projects destroy forests used for extractive industries. The Seringueiro is then left with no choice but to clear the land and become a small farmer.

Throughout the Amazon, rubber tappers are questioning the logic of government programs which devastate the forest, and in the process destroy their livelihood.

"We demand participation in all plans for development...in order to preserve the rainforests in which we live and work." (Resolution of the First National Encounter of Amazonian Rubber Tappers, 1985)

There may have been six to eight million native people living in the Amazon at the time of the Europeans' arrival, but massacres and diseases brought by the Europeans have reduced their numbers to about one-half million today.

For these native people, land is life, the key to their physical and cultural survival. They manage their lands in the forest with only a small environmental impact. "We need the rainforest to survive," says Itabira, chief of the Surui. "When you cut the rainforest, and the shade is gone, sickness follows."

Though demarcation and protection of Indian lands in Brazil is proscribed by law, nearly 80 percent of Indian lands are still in an irregular legal state. More than 80 native groups in Brazil have

joined together to fight for their traditional lands. Their organization, the Union of Indian Nations (UNI), has emerged as strong voice in asserting their rights for survival.

The colonization of the Amazon is a scheme of the Brazilian government, displacing small farmers to make way for huge agribusiness concerns and the production of export crops, like cacao and coffee, which help repay Brazil's \$104 billion foreign debt. Displaced farm families from many areas of Brazil arrive in the Amazon in search of land, but ultimately find the fragile soils unable to sustain them.

Colonists, squatters, and small farmers hope that land reform will play a role in easing rural conflicts. They have formed unions and associations, often with the help of the Catholic church, to press for change.

"I've had malaria seven times," explains Maria Alves, a small farmer from Rondonia. "The government tells us that we can have land, but there's no way we can farm this land. We came for a new life in the Amazon, but I'm afraid we're never going to find it."

Each of these people has something important to say regarding possible solutions to the environmental crisis of the Amazonian rainforest — Native People urge protecting and managing the natural diversity of the forest, seringueiros propose an "indigenous" sustainable economic alternative to lumbering and cattle ranching, and small farmers and the landless demand that the government address the social and economic inequities in Brazil which have driven migrants to the Amazon. Throughout the Amazon, grassroots groups are challenging the destruction of the rainforest. Coordinating the organizational efforts of Brazil's native people is Brazil's Union of Indigenous Nations. They are seeking recording equipment for their weekly radio program, and a four-wheel drive vehicle to reach remote Indian areas. Other valuable sources of information on the situation of Indian people of the

Amazon are the organizations Cultural Survival, Survival International, and the South and Central American Information Center. One group working to assist the rubber tappers in their organizing effort is Brasilia's Institute for Socio-Economic Studies (INESC). They also serve as a liaison between seringueiros, Native people and Brazilian legislators.

Pressures from the international environmental community created a cause for hope for the seringueiros, when for the first time, a new development project funded by the Interamerican Development Bank in Brazil's Amazonian state of Acre, may address their needs.

Colonists, landless peasants, and squatters have received a great deal of support from church groups such as the Pastoral Land Commission (CPT) and the Movement of the Landless. Some of the landless have reacted to threats by large landowners by banding together and occupying unproductive estates.

Other groups forming an activist network lending support to the people of Amazonia include The Campaign for the Defense and Development of Amazonia, The Gaucho Association for Protection of the Natural Environment, The Pro-Indian Commission, The Missionary Indianist Council, The Indianist Work Group, The National Indian Support Group, Operation Anchieta, The Ecumenical Center for Documentation and Information, The Agrarian Reform Association, and The Institute for Social and Economic Analyses. With two decades of military rule in Brazil now ended, there clearly exists the right atmosphere for positive change.

*Editors note: Glenn Switkes and Monti Aguirre are co-producers of the film, Amazonia: Voices from the Rainforest, currently in production. For more information on the film, please write to P.O. Box 10044, Oakland, California, 94610, or call (415) 452-1235. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the Film Arts Foundation/AMAZONIA Film Project at the same address.*

## From Our Correspondence

Dear nature friends,

When I was in Sarawak I got attentive to the problems of Gunung Mulu National Park in that the aboriginals of the Penan race had to move out of the protected area. To get some more information, I decided to make a trip into Penan territory in Ulu Limbang/Ulu Tutoh, just adjoining the Gunung Mulu National Park to the north.

The Penan are members of the oeko-system of the rainforest. The Penan don't harm the rainforest in a serious way, the rainforest is their habitat, which the Penan use like other living beings of the jungle.

In Ulu Limbang/Ulu Tutoh is an area of about 2,500 sq. km., most of it still primary forest, where about 360 Penans live in the traditional nomadic style.

I was shocked to see how much rainforest is going to be destroyed. The Sarawakian Government also did allow logging within the Penan area of Ulu Limbang/Ulu Tutoh. It is very sad; the Penan are against any logging in their homeland, but nobody will ask them their opinion.

we want to inform the public in different countries, to organize a petition and to make some pressure by World Wildlife Fund and Greenpeace on the Sarawakian Government.

Some "action," like in the case of Cape Tribulation, would be also useful. Could you please try to find some people who could join my friend and the Penan in a blockade against the bulldozers in Ulu Limbang/Ulu Tutoh (bridge at Long Bakawa)?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!!!

--Roger Graf  
Dammstrasse 19  
CH-8152 Glattnug  
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

Dear sir,

Recently we received World Rainforest Report no. 4. Actually we caught hold of it from the library. As we deal in forest conservation, we were very much interested in your Report.

SKEPHI is the network for forest conservation in Indonesia. As the name suggests, our main aim is to create awareness of the necessity of forest conservation. Our movements consist of campaigns, regreening programmes, researches on impact of forest destruction on tribal people, etc. Our ultimate goal would be to establish a clearing house on forest information, thus making information and data available to anyone who needs it.

We therefore would like to receive World Rainforest Report regularly. Hoping you will kindly put us on your mailing list.

Yours sincerely,  
—Miss Hira Jhamtani,  
volunteer-in-charge  
SKEPHI (Sekretariat Kerjasama  
Pelestarian Hutan Indonesia)  
Jalan Kran III no. 5  
Jakarta 10610  
INDONESIA

Hi,

You're rainforest newsletter is depressing; please send it to somebody else who may not already be converted, as is, presumably, anyone willing to subscribe. I've asked the Prison Admin to send you \$150 out of my account; if they do it may be a few days.

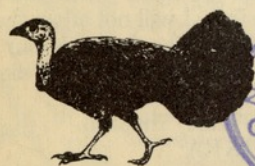
Good luck to the rainforests!

—R. Thompson  
Her Majesty's Prison, Risdon,  
Tasmania  
PO Box 24  
Lindisfarne, Tas . AUSTRALIA 7015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our society is involved in the struggle of the cultural minority people whose lives are very much threatened by the logging industry. We have carried out a study research on logging industry in the Seventh Division of Sarawak. We will send you a copy upon completion.

Sincerely yours,  
—Wong Meng Chuo, coordinator  
Society of Christian Service  
PO Box 244  
Sibu, Sarawak  
MALASIA



The new iron-bridge at Long Bakawa was finished last October 1985. Bulldozers will go across the bridge and destroy more Penan land. But not only the living space, also their culture and traditional way of life will be destroyed, not to talk about the beautiful rainforest and the other living beings.

My friend, who still lives in Sarawak, and I would like to organize help for the Penan and demand the declaration of a forest reserve of about 2,500 sq. km in Ulu Limbang/Ulu Tutoh. To reach that,



Most Hon'ble Director, Dear Sir,

Salutation, adoration, greetings and good wishes for this New Year of happiness and prosperity and long life. I convey on behalf of our Poor Indian Tribal people for whom we maintain a library but we lack the books and reports on forest protection. We heard about your report No. 3 and your other publications. Please donate some books, old or new, used or defective, and also put on your mailing list for newsletter etc.. We have no resources or any finance, hence may please be excused. Thanks.

Cordially yours,  
—Dr. K.D. Chauhan  
P.O. Unjha 384170  
North Gujarat  
INDIA